

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 MANAMA 00904 101543Z

41

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W

----- 095917

P 101355Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA BAHRAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY 3219

S E C R E T MANAMA 904

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS : MASS, BA

SUBJECT : MIDDLE EAST FORCE AND SECURITY ASSISTANCE

REF : STATE 169515

1. APPRECIATE OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE FOLLOWING COMMENTS ON
WHAT BAHRAINIS ARE UP TO, WHY, AND WHAT IT MIGHT COST.

2. IN MY VIEW LITTLE IN REGIONAL OR ARAB WORLD SITUATION
RELEVANT TO MIDDLE EAST FORCE QUESTION HAS CHANGED SINCE
LAST SUMMER. THERE NEVER WAS PERSUASIVE REGIONAL PRESSURE
ON GOB TO MAKE NAVY LEAVE. PRIME MINISTER NOW FIGURES HE
COULD EXTEND NAVY PRESENCE WITHOUT PUBLIC SUPPORT FROM
SAUDI ARABIA OR IRAN IF HE HAS SUFFICIENT MILITARY ASSIS-
TANCE TO SHOW FOR IT AT HOME. AS TO TIMING OF ANY APPROACH
TO GOB, HOWEVER, I FIND IT DIFFICULT TO SEE GOB MAKING ANY DECISION
ON THIS ISSUE WHILE ARAB WORLD IS IN CURRENT DISARRAY
AND HENCE FEEL NEGOTIATIONS LIKELY TO DRAG ON FOR A NUMBER
OF MONTHS IN ANY EVENT.

3. THERE IS NO QUESTION FOREIGN MINISTER AND OTHER CABINET
MEMBERS WILL DO THE BIDDING OF AMIR AND PRIME MINISTER IF
ORDERED IN CABINET TO DO SO. BUT THAT IS NOT THE WAY THE
SYSTEM WORKDS HERE WHERE PRIME MINISTER TENDS TO SEEK CON-
SENSUS RATHER THAN GIVING ORDERS. PROBLEM IS THAT LAST YEAR
AMIR AND PRIME MINISTER "IN CABINET" WERE PERSUADED CONTINUED
NAVY PRESENCE WAS NOT IN BAHRAIN'S NET INTEREST. A YEAR

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 MANAMA 00904 101543Z

LATER PRIME MINISTER FEELS LESS PRESSURE FROM DOMESTIC

CRITICS OF NAVY PRESENCE SINCE THEY HAVE NO FORUM WITH
ANATIONAL ASSEMBLY DISSOLVED AND HE OBVIOUSLY FEELS CON-
SIDERABLE PRESSURE FROM CROWN PRINCE TO ACQUIRE MODERN
WEAPONRY FOR WHICH CABINET IS LOATH TO PAY. HENCE PRIME
MINISTER'S PLOY IS TO KILL TWO BIRDS WITH ONE STONE BY
PERSUADING CABINET TO LET NAVY REMAIN AS MEANS OF OBTAINING
U.S. MILITARY ASSISTANCE. SINCE MOST OF CABINET APPEARS
UNENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT BOTH KEEPING THE NAVY AND MODERNIZING
THE DEFENSE FORCE, I THINK WE ARE GOING TO HAVE TO OFFER GOB
A PRETTY SWEET DEAL, ESPECIALLY IF WE ARE TALKING ABOUT
EXETENSION OF MORE THAN A YEAR.

4. WE HAVE REPORTED WHAT PRIME MINISTER AND CROWN PJINCE HAVE
SAID THEY WANTED IN THE WAY OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE. PRIME
MINISTER SPOKE OF HELICOPTER FORCE, SOMETHING "MORE THAN A
COAST GUARD BUT LESS THAN A NAVY" AND MODERNIZATION OF ARMOR
AND LIGHT ARTILLERY. CROWN PRINCE THREW IN A JET FIGHTER
SQUADRON. AS DEPT. WILL RECALL IN 1974 PRIME MINISTER HAD EXPRESSED
INTEREST IN TOW AND BDF HAD ASKED ABOUT BUYING HAWK, TOW,
AND RED EYE. IN SHORT THE APPETITE WILL BE LIMITED ONLY BY
OUR ABILITY TO CONTROL EXTENT OF OUR COMMITMENT AND THE SLOW-
MOVING DIGESTIVE SYSTEM OF THE BDF.

5. ASSUMING USG DECIDES IT IS WORTHWHILE TRYING TO KEEP MIDDLE
EAST FORCE HERE PAST 1977, IT WOULD SEEM IMPERATIVE THAT WE
DETERMINE CLEARLY IN OUR OWN MINDS WHETHER WE ARE SEEKING A
LIMITED ONE OR TWO YEAR EXTENSION OR AN INDEFINITE ONE.

6. IF IT IS A YEAR OR TWO THAT WE ARE TALKING ABOUT, WE MIGHT
BE ABLE TO MAKE A DEAL LIMITED IN NATURE AND GENERALLY CONSISTENT
WITH LOWER GULF ARMS POLICY. WHILE I DO NOT THINK PLOY OF MY
"PERSONEL" SUGGESTION THAT GOB EXTEND DEADLINE A YEAR AS FIRST
STEP WILL WORK, I THINK WE OUGHT TO LET IT PERCOLATE A WHILE AS
WE PROCEED WITH HELICOPTER SURVEY. WHEN BY AROUND SEPTEMBER
WE KNOW THE ORDER OF MAGNITUDE AND COST OF BDF'S HELICOPTER
SCHEME, AND WHEN PRIME MINISTER IS AGAIN FREE TO FOCUS ON THIS
PROBLEM AFTER SUMMER VACATION AND OFFICIAL VISIT TO AUSTRALIA,
WE COULD EXPLORE ONE OR TWO YEAR EXTENSION MIDDLE EAST FORCE
DEADLINE IN RETURN FOR OUR HELPING GOB FINANCE HELICOPTER WING.
POSSIBLY SOME COMBINATUON OF FMS CREDITS AND INCREASED NAVY

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 MANAMA 00904 101543Z

RENT MIGHT SWING THIS. WE MIGHT ALSO HAVE TO GET INTO MODERN-
IZING BDF ARMOR.

7. TO NEGOTIATE EXTENSION OF MORE THAN A YEAR OR TWO, HOWEVER,
I AM STILL PERSUADED WE WILL NEED TO MAKE EXTENSIVE MILITARY
ASSISTANCE COMMITMENT COVERING MOST IF NOT ALL OF THE MODERNIZA-
TION SCHEMES MENTIONED PARA 4.

TWINAM

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY ASSISTANCE, NAVAL FORCES, MILITARY BASES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: blochd0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MANAMA00904
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760267-0072
From: MANAMA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760771/aaaackff.tel
Line Count: 115
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 76 STATE 169515
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: blochd0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 JUN 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <19 OCT 2004 by blochd0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: : MIDDLE EAST FORCE AND SECURITY ASSISTANCE
TAGS: MARR, MASS, US, BA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006